

A Heart For The Lost

The chief organ of our physical life is the heart.

Leviticus 17:11 [NIV] *“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”*

Physical life is in the blood and our heart is essential for that life to flow throughout our physical body.

By an easy transition the word heart came to stand for a human’s entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and emotional elements.

The heart is used to depict the centre of life.

Proverbs 4:23 [NIV] *“Above all else, guard your **heart**, for it is the **wellspring of life**.”*

Heart is wellspring of life.

Luke 6:45 [NIV] *“The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.”*

We are what is in our heart.

Proverbs 16:23 [NIV] *“A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.”*

What is in our heart ends up coming out in words and attitudes.

The Bible considers the heart as the governing centre our whole life.

There is **no** suggestion in The Bible that the brain is the centre of consciousness, thought or will.

God presents Himself as Triune in being, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19 [NIV] *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,”*

Baptised in name [authority] of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

John 15:26 [NIV] *“When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”*

All three mentioned together here as in many other scriptures.

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, “**Let us make man in our image**, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

Humanity was created in the image of God.

Many scriptures point to humans as also triune in nature.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 [NIV] *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Psalm 84:2 [NIV] *“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”*

We are all **flesh**, we all have a **brain** and also a **spirit**.

Deuteronomy 6:5 [NIV] *“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”*

Heart, soul [mind], strength [body].

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

Understanding on a physical level comes through the spirit in us that makes us human not bestial.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 [NIV] *“However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him,” but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

It is the union of the human spirit that makes us human and the Holy Spirit that reveals spiritual truth.

Of the three areas of our existence the human spirit is most likely the seat of our “*spiritual heart*” where our God-like character can be developed.

The **body** dies, goes back to the elements of which it is constructed.

The **brain** also stops functioning when the body dies.

The Bible speaks of the **soul** dying.

Ezekiel 18:4, 20 [NIV] *“The soul who sins is the one who will die.” ... “The soul who sins is the one who will die.”*

Ecclesiastes 12:7 [NIV] *“and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”*

Body returns to dust but the **human spirit** returns to God who gave it to us to make us human.

Heart and character are linked in many scriptures and it is character or likeness to God that He is seeking to create in us.

Galatians 5:22 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,”*

These characteristics of God are the fruit of the union of human spirit and the Holy Spirit.

This all indicates that “*heart*” and “*spirit*” is speaking about the same thing and may be interchanged.

Genesis 6:5 [NIV] *“The LORD saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”*

Thoughts are spiritual and linked here with heart.

Mark 2:8 [NIV] *“Immediately **Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts**, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things?”*

Thinking in heart.

1 Samuel 16:7 [NIV] *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, **but the LORD looks at the heart.**”*

God examines our heart.

Acts 13:22 [NIV] *“After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: ‘**I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.**”*

David’s heart was right with God.

1 Samuel 16:1 [NIV] *“The LORD said to Samuel, “**How long will you mourn for Saul**, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”*

1 Samuel 2:33 [NIV] *“Every one of you that I do not cut off from my altar will be spared only to blind your eyes with tears and to **grieve your heart**, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.”*

Lamentations 2:18 [NIV] *“The **hearts of the people cry out to the Lord**. O wall of the Daughter of Zion, let your tears flow like a river day and night; give yourself no relief, your eyes no rest.”*

Grief and the heart are linked.

Samuel grieved over Saul because his rebellion had caused for Holy Spirit to be taken from him.

1 Samuel 16:14 [NIV] *“Now the **Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul**, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.”*

And an evil spirit took over from the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The **god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers**, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Satan is ruler of this present society.

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan, who leads the whole world astray**. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

Has deceived this whole world.

We must be like Samuel and grieve in our heart for those who do not even know the Holy Spirit and hence do not have Him working with out spirit to produce the fruits of that union, the very characteristics of our Creator God.

John 14:15-21 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. **The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him**. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

The only way we can have a “heart for the deceived and lost” is to allow the Holy Spirit to work in us and through us to fulfil His desired work in this society.

John 16:5-15 [NIV] *“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. **Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.**”*

This is the work of the Holy Spirit, which He will do in measure through us.

John 7:38-39 [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

Holy Spirit works through us.

Romans 5:1-5 [NIV] *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because **God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit**, whom he has given us.”*

The Greek word translated “into” could be translated “through”.

“En” refers to living in but also being directed outward from.

The more we yield to the Holy Spirit the more He will give us the “heart”, [spirit] for the lost in society.

Ephesians 4:30 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by sinning.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 [NIV] *“Do not put out the Spirit’s fire;”*

Do not put out the burning desire the Holy Spirit generates in our hearts to reach out to those who do not know our Saviour.